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too much ascribed to ☿ as a prevention &c

An
Essay
on
Hydrophobia
by
Joseph Warren
South Carolina

Passed March 10th 1824
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Hydrophobia

In writing the following sheets, I regret much my inability to offer any thing new or interesting; more especially on a disease that is so little understood and about which physicians differ so widely both as regards its pathology and treatment. I am well aware that many able and distinguished writers have attempted to explain its nature, but they certainly have fallen far short of being satisfactory and it will not be expected that I can offer any thing new with regard to it, but I shall satisfy myself merely by giving a few of the most generally recieved opinions.

Hydrophobia, fortunately is not of frequent occurence in the united states, but it is a disease which the practitioner has occasionally

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to witness, although almost destitute of the hope of effecting a cure and oftentimes deprived of the consolations of affording even temporary relief, while the patient in the greatest agony implores ~~for~~ assistance. It can not be said that this disease is absolutely incurable, I believe we can prove to the contrary, by some few cases.

I think with many that there are few diseases which can in their own nature be pronounced desperate, but properly speaking we are unacquainted with the medicines calculated for their cure.

Many patients have been dismissed by the most celebrated and experienced physicians as incurables, who have actually recovered merely by the efforts of unassisted nature and occasionally by

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the random prescriptions of ignorant Quack

When diseases are pronounced incurable, it immediately establishes indolence, and inattention. This diffidence of our knowledge and just sense of the present imperfect treatment of Hydrophobia, should incite us to improve it, not only from a love of the art itself, but from a principle of humanity.

The true meaning of the word Hydrophobia, is a fear or dread of water or other liquids, but what physicians wish to express by this term, though a very improper one, is a peculiar disease characterised by certain other symptoms, such as convulsions, great restlessness, a discharge of saliva &c. and such is the disease I wish to describe. Hydrophobia then most commonly arises from the

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bite of rabid animals, more especially from the dog, and cat, as they are mostly domesticated and sometimes spontaneously.

This peculiar affection is arranged by Cullen, under the class neuroses, and order spasmi. He defines it "a loathing and great dread of drinking liquids from their creating a painful convulsion of the pharynx, occasioned most commonly by the bite of a mad animal."

Hydrophobia is divided into two species. When there is a desire of biting it is termed, Hydrophobia rabiosa and when there is not a desire of biting Hydrophobia simplex.

With regard to spontaneous hydrophobia at the present period there can be little or no doubt, that all the symptoms indicating this disease may

appears on the human subject; exclusive
of the bite of a rabid animal, we have
many well attested cases by authors in
proof of this [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] as the sufferings and death.
I have never known neither heard of
cases of such animals [illegible] mad at this
season. I am inclined to think
that this disease most frequently origin-
ates in this State among [illegible] and
foxes [illegible] [illegible] that there exists
a great quantity of [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] which they frequently
[illegible] in our country from the [illegible]
of dogs that are [illegible] [illegible]. The
animals are [illegible] by them [illegible]
particularly by those that are [illegible]
[illegible] by the dogs that are [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] bitten this [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] to others and [illegible] [illegible]
this [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible]
is capable of communicating the disease

after [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] I shewed it [illegible]
[illegible] at
[illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] the experiment
[illegible] injected with the [illegible]
into two days which contained the
[illegible] of [illegible].

It was [illegible]
[illegible] animal but [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] in [illegible]
without the slightest inconvenience.
It will [illegible] sound [illegible] animal
[illegible] my opinion effect. I was
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

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are incapable of arresting the disease when formed.

If I am ever so unfortunate as to be called in to a disease of this kind, I should be tempted to try the effects of blood letting, if the pulse would in any way permit, carried to a considerable extent, then the warm bath, after this I would attempt to give opium and calomel freely, carefully watching the effects of the medicines, if the patient be incapable of swallowing the opium, it should be thrown up by injections, cloths wet with laudanum should then be applied to the throat and abdomen. if these means should be attended with no good effect, I would make

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an artificial opening into the wind pipe.
as proposed I think first by Doctor
Physick, obviating by this operation
the most fatal symptom and giving
time for the effects of the medicines
employed, should the patient recover
from this attack, I would puet and
keep him under a mercurial course
for some time.